

In recent years, Slovenia and Slovenian tourism have made breakthroughs in the development and promotion of the country, particularly as a five-star boutique destination committed to sustainability. As our country received distinguished awards and was ranked among the world's top countries, this has led to the increased attention of the world public, which viewed Slovenia as a leading country in many areas, particularly in sustainable tourism. The recognitions and awards received by the Slovenian Tourist Board in recent years have also significantly contributed to the increased recognisability and the growing reputation of Slovenia as an excellent tourist destination. We are also proud of the international awards and recognitions received by Slovenia's tourist destinations and cities. Some of the main ones are listed below.

## 2018:

- At the ITB Berlin 2018 tourism trade show, the Slovenian Tourist Board received the **Sustainable Destinations 2018 award in the Best of the Planet – Best of Europe category**. Destinations with the Slovenia Green Destination label within the Green Scheme of Slovenian Tourism and **Ljubljana and Podčetrtek**, as the holders of this golden label, were the winners in the Best of Europe category at the Global Top 100 Sustainable Destinations Awards.
- The Slovenian Tourist Board celebrated receiving two more awards at the ITB Berlin tourism trade show, namely for excellence in the field of promotional and communications tools. **It won second place at The Golden City Gate 2018 awards for its Feel Pure Love promotional video and for the Cultural Experiences Slovenia publication**.
- The Slovenian Tourist Board attended **the WorldMediaFestival|TOURISM in Hamburg** where it was awarded twice for its promotional activities. **For its Slovenia. Make New Memories. global digital campaign, it received the intermedia-globe GOLD award, and for the long and short versions of the Slovenia Impressions: Feel Pure Love promotional video, it received the intermedia-globe SILVER award**. These awards represent excellence and incredible modern solutions in the global promotion of tourism.
- Slovenia was given the prestigious **European Region of Gastronomy 2021** title.
- **Virtuoso**, a leading association in the world in the luxury and boutique travel industry, **nominated the Slovenian Tourist Board for the tourist board of 2018**.
- **Lonely Planet** placed Slovenia on one of its four lists of destinations that are **recommended to visitors in 2019**. On the list of one of the most influential tourist portals in the world, Slovenia is listed **among the destinations for 'best value' experiences**.
- **Lonely Planet** placed the **Vipava Valley** on one of its lists of recommended destinations in 2018 (**Lonely Planet's Best in Europe 2018 Top 10 Destination**).
- At the three-day **Moscow International Travel & Tourism (MITT)** tourism trade show, Slovenia, from among the participating countries, received the **Best Spa Destination** award.
- The Slovenian Tourist Board received the **bronze Werbe Grand Prix award for the 'Kulturstädte' publication (Historical Towns and Cities)**. This is one of the most

important recognitions in the area of promotional materials in the German-speaking market.

- In September, at the headquarters of the European Commission, **Ljubljana** was declared **the best city in the category of sustainable development within the first implementation of the 'European Capital of Smart Tourism' project (European Smart Tourism Awards)**.
- **The European Commission – DG SANTE, i.e. the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety**, which is responsible for the EU health and food safety policy, recognised the **Kuhnapato** or **'Children Make Other Children a Healthy Traditional Meal'** as **one of the best practices in the European Union for ensuring a healthy and sustainable lifestyle**.
- At WTM London, Slovenia was given **golden award in the category Best in Wellness by International Travel & Tourism Award** for the campaign **Healthy Waters**.
- **Ljubljana** is one of the **Best 10 places to travel in 2019** according to a list published by Forbes in October.
- We're a proud partner of the **Tour of Slovenia Cycling Race**. This year's edition was awarded with **Best Event Award** at SPORTO Conference in Portorož - which makes us even prouder!

## 2017:

- At the ITB Berlin tourism trade show, Slovenia was given the distinguished **World Legacy Destination Leadership Award** by **National Geographic** for its sustainable destination management.
- Furthermore, at the ITB Berlin 2017 tourism trade show, the Slovenian Tourist Board received **The Golden City Gate 2017 award** for its promotional video titled 'Slovenia. Make New Memories.'
- **Flight Network**, one of the leading online travel agencies from Canada, declared the Slovenian Tourist Board **one of the World's Best Tourism Organisations**.
- At the WTM London trade show, **Ljubljana** received the **WTM Responsible Tourism award in the 'Best for Communication' category**.
- **The Association of Travel Journalists of Slovenia** recognised the significant contribution of the Slovenian Tourist Board in increasing Slovenia's recognisability and awarded it the **Crystal Triglav 2017**, the award for supreme achievements in Slovenian tourism.
- In September 2017, an award ceremony for the **national WEBSI award** was held. The award for the top digital campaign in 2017 was given to the global digital campaign 'Slovenia. Make new memories.' carried out by the Slovenian Tourist Board and the company PM, poslovni mediji d.o.o.

## 2016:

- In September, Slovenia was declared the first **Green Country in the World** at the **'Global Green Destinations Day,'** which was held in Ljubljana.
- **European Green Capital** – in February, this title was officially handed over to **Ljubljana** from the British town of Bristol.

- **Slovenia is the best emerging destination** – at ITB Berlin 2016, the PATWA organisation gave Slovenia the *PATWA Award for the Best Emerging Destination*.
- **Recognitions for promotional videos on Slovenian tourism.** Furthermore, at the ITB Berlin 2016 trade show, Slovenia received two awards (Das Goldene Stadttor) for the promotional videos on Slovenian tourism.
- **Slovenia was the finalist for the Global Sport Tourism Impact Award** – at the WTM London 2016 world tourism trade show, Slovenia was among the four finalists for the distinguished Global Sport Tourism Impact Award.
- **Preferred Destination of the Year 2016** – the European Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Association declared Slovenia the Preferred Destination of the Year 2016.
- **Preferred Destination of the Year 2016** is an award given by the **European Travel Agents' and Tour Operators' Association (ECTAA)**.
- At the MITT Moscow 2016 trade show, Slovenia received a **special Sustainable Tourism Award** – this is an award for the development and promotion of Slovenia as a sustainable destination.
- Bled received the prestigious **Sport Tourism Impact Award in the Sport Tourism Town 2016 category**, while Kranjska Gora was also among the finalists.
- **The Legatum Institute from London** put Slovenia **in first place on the list of countries** that are the most successful in preserving the natural environment (Legatum Prosperity Index).

#### 2015:

- **An award received by the Slovenian Tourist Board observing its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary** (conferred by the Tourism Chamber of Slovenia).

#### 2014:

- Slovenia received the title **Undiscovered Golf Destination of the Year 2015**.

#### 2011:

- World Travel Market 2011: **Best Stand Award for interacting with Travel Agents**.
- The Slovenian Tourist Board received the **Chinese Tourists Welcoming Award** in the **Product Innovation** category at the COTTM tourism trade show in Beijing in China for operating under the slogan *Experience Croatia, Feel Slovenia*.

#### 2009:

- **The Bank of Tourism Potentials in Slovenia (BTPS)** received an award from the **World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)** for **special and innovative achievements in tourism**.
- **BTPS** was also ranked among **examples of good practice in the European Year of Creativity and Innovation**.

## 2008:

- at the 29<sup>th</sup> WTM London tourism trade show in 2008, the stand communicating Slovenia's I FEEL SLOVENIA marketing brand and promoting Slovenian tourism received the **Best Stand Award For Doing Business**.

## 2006:

- **The Slovenian Tourist Board's 'Slovenia. A Diversity to Discover' TV ad** received a number of distinguished awards: **the main award at the TOURFILM 2006 festival in Karlovy Vary in Czechia; first place for the best tourism video at the TOURFILM 2006 festival in Plock, Poland; one of five equal awards given by the CIFFT Committee (Comite International des Festivals du Film Touristique) in Vienna and first place for music at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Tourfilm Festival SW ITF 2006 in Split.**

## 2004:

- Editors of the renowned British newspapers Guardian, Observer, and the online Guardian Unlimited edition gave Slovenia **an award in the category of the most popular countries for tourism** (on the basis of a survey among their readers and website visitors).